The Sampler

November 20, 2012

The Sampler is a monthly e-newsletter produced by the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program.

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Web Highlights

This month's featured lake website is the Belknap Lakes in Gilmanton, Alton and Barnstead, NH
http://www.belknaplakes.com/

The Nine Most Dangerous and Costly Invasive Species
Fox News

Upcoming Events

2013 NH Water and Watershed Conference
Friday, March 22, 2013

Call for Abstracts and Abstract Submittal Form

EPA's Watershed Academy Webcast: How's my Waterway? and Other Water Quality Apps
Register

Grants

New England Grassroots Environment Fund

New Hampshire's Protected Instream Flow Program

What is it and why do we need it?

The purpose of the NH Instream Flow Program, established by the NH General Court in 1990, is to balance human and wildlife needs in both lakes and rivers and ensure that our rivers continue to flow in spite of the uses and stresses that we put on them. Under natural conditions, rivers flow freely with water levels varying throughout the seasons. Native plants and animal populations have adapted to variations such as summer low flows and spring floods. Under human influences, however, river dynamics can change. People frequently withdraw large amounts of water for drinking and irrigation directly from rivers, as well as from the sources that supply the rivers, such as lakes and groundwater. Many rivers have dams that restrict the amount and timing of water flowing downstream. In addition, the loss of wetlands to land development reduces the amount of water that would normally augment rivers during dry periods.

In 2002, DES initiated the Instream Flow Piliot Program for the Lamprey and Souhegan Rivers. The program consists of two parts. First, DES calculates the seasonal flows required for each stream to protect aquatic life and implement Surface Water Quality requirements. Second, management plans are drafted that describe how water users and dam owners will manage their facilities to maintain flow and meet human water needs. The management plans outline the low flow circumstances under which water withdrawals are modified and the long-term critical low flow conditions during which a relief pulse of water may be necessary to save the lives of fish and other aquatic life.

As of September 2012, DES has published draft Lamprey and Souhegan River water management plans for public review. DES is also conducting a lake level investigation at Pawtuckaway Lake to determine the optimum winter drawdown for the lake that will still allow for a winter relief pulse during potential drought conditions. The final management plans will address public comments and lake investigations. Following adoption of the final plans, DES expects that implementation of the Water Management Plans will begin in 2013. After a period of implementation, the NH General Court will review the Lamprey and Souhegan pilot projects to determine the future of instream flow protection in New Hampshire. This may include developing protected flows and water management plans on other rivers.
To learn more about the Instream Flow Protection Program, visit http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/instream/,

Limno Lingo

Bryozoan: A Bryozoan is a colonial animal similar to coral. Each individual member of the colony is called a zooid. Zooids are enclosed in a protective sheath made from chitin or calcium carbonate. Zooids form large colonies of different shapes and sizes. In New Hampshire we often recognize them as gelatinous balls attached to logs, branches, docks, or plant stems. They are filter feeders eating algae and other organic material. A single zooid can filter up to 8.8 mL of water a day, meaning large colonies can filter significant amounts of water. There are over 5,000 species worldwide, but only 50 inhabit freshwater.

or contact Wayne Ives at (603) 271-3548 or mail to wayne.ives@des.nh.gov.

Have a Water Efficient Thanksgiving!

The River Network's Travis Leipzig offers the following tips. Preparing for and cleaning up after a holiday meal can use much more water than an everyday meal. Running your tap continuously while preparing food or washing dishes wastes water and can use more than 2 gallons of water every minute your tap is running. That's a lot when you're cooking a big meal for extended family members and friends! A few simple and easy steps can help save water and energy. If you own a dishwasher, scrape dirty dishes rather than pre-rinsing them before placing them in the dishwasher. If you don't have a dishwasher, fill the sink with a few gallons of wash water, clean your dishes and put them aside. Then, rinse them all together at the end. Either of these simple practices could save 10 gallons. If every household reduced 10 gallons on Thanksgiving Day alone, it would save more than 1 billion gallons of water. That's enough for 1 million households with dishwashers to wash their dishes for a year. For more information saving tips visit http://www.epa.gov/watersense/.

Celebrating Lake Associations

Cabin Life Magazine is celebrating the good work lake associations are doing on and off the water. Read what lake associations are doing here. Email Cabin Life about your lake association's accomplishments at editor@cabinlife.com.

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